

Mayor Coleman Keeping Promise to Purchase 837 New Walkies for Police Officers and Firefighters

COLUMBUS - Ensuring that Columbus' frontline safety forces have the best tools available to do their job is a key goal of Mayor Michael B. Coleman, and working together with City Council, the City is purchasing 837 new 'walkies,' top-of-the-line communication radios for Police Officers and Firefighters.

"These walkies are the tools that our officers need 24/7 to protect our neighborhoods and themselves," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "We made a promise to buy more radios and improve the communications lifeline for the Divisions of Police and Fire, and I am pleased to move forward with this purchase."

The \$2.5 million purchase of walkie-talkies is before City Council for passage this evening. The purchase in Ordinance 834-2005 will make radios available to all patrol officers, as well as provide 142 new radios for Firefighters.

The new Motorola XTS5000 radios are capable of operating within the City's current 800-megahertz communications system, as well as within the upcoming 700-megahertz spectrum that future public safety systems may have to use. Since the 9/11 World Trade Center attack, the City of Columbus has been a regional partner in providing multi-agency communications tools to help all the safety forces in Central Ohio work together effectively. This effort includes purchasing radio equipment that allows access to multiple public safety radio systems. The City's new walkies will be able to operate on the City, County and new State MARCS radio systems, providing up to 512-radio user talk group domains.

Department of Public Safety Communications Division Contact: Dave Borden,
645-7710